

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 remain in connection with the present application, with claims 1 and 25 being the sole outstanding independent claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, these claims have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner in an effort to ensure strict compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It should be noted that the amendments made to claims 5, 11 and 12 are non-narrowing amendments. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Burmeister et al. in view of Onoue. This rejection is respectfully traversed and is further inapplicable to new claims 25-36 for at least the following reasons.

Burmeister et al. is directed to an insulation displacement contact which, as acknowledged by the Examiner, does not disclose a spring clip which forms an insulation displacement blade in at least one end region, as set forth in claim 1 of the present application, for example. Further, as Burmeister et al. does not include an insulation displacement blade, as set forth in claim 1, it also cannot disclose the blade forming an entry region capable of cutting and located in front of the contact region as is also set forth in claim 1.

In an effort to make up for the deficiencies of Burmeister et al., the Examiner attempts to combine his teachings with Onoue. The Examiner alleges that Onoue teaches an insulation displacement contact having an outer spring clip 2 with an insulation displacement blade 12 forming an end region 11. Applicants respectfully traverse the assertions made by the Examiner and respectfully submit that even assuming *arguendo* that Burmeister et al. could be combined with Onoue, which Applicants do not admit, Onoue would still fail to make up for the aforementioned deficiencies of Burmeister et al. for at least the following reasons.

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit that Onoue does not teach an insulation displacement contact, but instead merely teaches an **electrical contact** as is set forth in the title of the application for example. Next, Applicants respectfully submit that the element 12 is disclosed as a **pair of wire holding members that are bent inwardly**, which in no way constitute an insulation displacement blade, especially a blade capable of cutting and located in front of the contact region as set forth in claim 1. The pair of wire holding members 12 are just that, namely wire holding members, and have nothing to do with blades or cutting. Nowhere in Onoue are the words blade or cutting even mentioned. Further aspects of the blade, including the blade being formed from a suitably hard material as set forth in claim 3 or the blade forming an entry region capable of cutting located in front of the contact region as claimed in claim 6, are also not disclosed in Onoue or Burmeister et al. By including such a blade in the insulation displacement contact of the present application, cold, brittle insulation on a conductor (for example) can easily be cut down to the conductive core.

As such a blade is not taught or suggested in any of Burmeister et al. or Onoue, taken either singularly or in combination, the alleged combination of references cannot form a *prima facie* case of obviousness for rendering any of claims 1-24 of the present application obvious. Even assuming *arguendo* that the references could be combined, the alleged combination would still fail to render at least claim 1 obvious. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Somewhat similarly, claim 25 sets forth a spring clip which includes a cutting blade portion adapted to cut and located approximate to a contact region, wherein such a cutting blade portion is not taught or suggested in either one of Burmeister et al. or Onoue taken either singularly or in combination. Claim 26 further specifies that the cutting blade portion includes a v-shaped region, adapted to cut insulation of the conductor, which is further not taught or suggested by either Burmeister et al. or Onoue, taken either singularly or in combination. Somewhat similarly, claim 36 is directed to the insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, wherein the insulation displacement blade includes a v-shaped region, adapted to cut insulation of a conductor, which is not taught or suggested by either one of Burmeister et al. or Onoue, taken either singularly or in combination. Accordingly, allowance of new claims 25-36 is also requested.

LACK OF MOTIVATION TO COMBINE REFERENCES

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has shown no teaching or motivation which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Burmeister et al. with Onoue. In order to combine the prior art references, the Examiner must

show some teaching, suggestion or motivation of the desirability of making the specific combination that was made by the Applicant. The motivation, suggestion or teaching may come explicitly from statements in the prior art, the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, or in some cases, the nature of the problems to be solved. See *In re Dembiczak*, 50 USPQ2d 1614 (Fed. Cir. 1999) and *In re Kotzab*, 55 USPQ2d 1313 (Fed. Cir. 2000). No such motivation has been indicated by the Examiner.

While Burmeister et al. is directed to an insulation displacement contact, Onoue is merely directed to a **normal electrical contact** and thus has nothing to do with displacing insulation. While Burmeister et al. arguably includes some type of contact spring, and Onoue arguably includes some type of bent wire holding members 12, claim 1 calls for a spring clip forming an insulation displacement blade in at least one end region.* There is nothing in Onoue, since it does not even disclose a spring clip, which would motivate one of ordinary skill to even place its wire holding members in the alleged spring clip of Burmeister et al., **let alone forming a spring clip which forms an insulation displacement blade** as claimed in claim 1 * (and let alone a blade which forms an entry region capable of cutting and located in front of a contact region as is also set forth in claim 1). Accordingly, without such motivation, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness which would render any of claims 1-36 of the present application obvious. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the alleged combination of Burmeister et al. in view of Onoue is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of claims 1-36 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

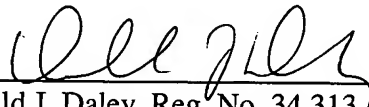
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C

By: _____


Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

DJD:knv

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIM CHANGES

5. (Twice Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the spring clip and the connecting bracket are designed such that [the] limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

11. (Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the spring clip and the connecting bracket are designed such that [the] limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

12. (Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of the spring clip and the connecting bracket are designed such that [the] limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.